



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is



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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The St. Louis Post–Dispatch reports the National Science Foundation has given \$7.5 million to the University of Illinois for a national center that plans to improve the security of the networks that govern the national power grid. (See item [3](#))
- The Arizona Daily Sun reports Arizona state Representative Russell Pearce wants to erect a climb–proof fence wherever possible from Yuma to east of Douglas, to help stem the flow of people crossing the border illegally. (See item [18](#))
- CNET News reports scientists hope to use a new mathematical technique to detect red tides or toxic algae in the ocean, which could also help detect acts of bioterrorism in the nation's waterways. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:

[\[set manually\]](#)

1. *August 17, Reuters* — **OPEC increases forecast for oil demand.** Oil cartel Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nudged up its forecast for world oil demand growth in 2006 on Wednesday, August 17, and predicted OPEC supplies would have to offset lower–than–expected output from non–OPEC countries. OPEC now expects world oil demand to grow by 1.57 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2006, an upward revision of 30,000 bpd and

little changed from this year's growth rate. In its monthly report, OPEC's Vienna secretariat cited a "slightly more optimistic view of the world economy for the coming year." The United States will lead demand growth within the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while China will make up about one-fourth of total world oil demand growth in 2006, said OPEC. It trimmed its forecast for non-OPEC production by 148,000 to 51.5 million bpd and projected demand for OPEC crude at 29.2 million bpd, an upward revision of 170,000 bpd. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is already pumping one million bpd above its anticipated requirement for 2006.

OPEC August Oil Market Report:

[http://www.opec.org/home/Monthly%20Oil%20Market%20Reports/20 05/pdf/MR082005.pdf](http://www.opec.org/home/Monthly%20Oil%20Market%20Reports/20%2005/pdf/MR082005.pdf)

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-energy-opec.html>

2. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Midwest utilities scramble in wake of Wyoming coal slowdown.** As utility companies across the Midwest have updated investors about their operations over the past month, there's been one constant -- an eye toward slower shipments of coal used to fire up electric generators. A pair of train derailments in May and subsequent repair work on the rail line coming out of the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, one of the nation's prime sources of coal, has reduced shipments between 10 percent and 15 percent as a hot summer has pressured utilities to produce more watts. The reaction has ranged from some companies saying they have enough stockpiled coal and are merely monitoring the situation to others which are already increasing customers' bills as they switch to more expensive natural gas or buy extra power on the open market. Officials from Columbus, Ohio-based American Electric Power Co., the nation's largest purchaser of coal, said moving coal from eastern states flush with Appalachian coal and other methods have kept operations stable. "Obviously it's not ideal and creates more challenging coal management issues on our side, but we have been able to manage it," said spokesperson Melissa McHenry.

Source: <http://www.billinggazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/08/17/build/wyoming/32-wyo-coal.inc>

3. *August 16, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO)* — **Planned center will improve security of national power grid.** On Monday, August 15, two years after a major blackout in the Northeast, the National Science Foundation gave \$7.5 million to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for a national center that aims to improve the security of the networks that govern the national power grid. The center, called the Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the Power Grid, will task 19 scientists with creating network protocols that quickly and securely would share the pulsing supply and demand information of many companies. It could happen in much the same way that secure protocols were created for business transactions on the Internet, said University of Illinois electrical and computer engineer Bill Sanders, who will head the center. The deregulation of the power industry in 1998 created more choices for customers, but it also created more power suppliers that weren't used to talking with each other. "Different operating companies have an incentive not to share information under normal situations," Sanders said. "Under emergency situations, it may be important that they can share that information in a controlled way, quickly," said Sanders.

More information about the Center:

<http://www.news.uiuc.edu/news/05/0815researchcenter.html>

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/story/87BFA4E0CC86C19886257060001B85D8?OpenDocument>

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *August 17, The Roanoke Times (VA)* — **Chemical spill closes Virginia interstate.** A chemical spill closed down a section of Interstate-77 Tuesday afternoon, August 16, in Wythe County, VA, near the Bland County, VA, line after a tractor-trailer carrying acetone was struck by a car. The tractor-trailer, which was carrying 3,200 gallons of the flammable liquid, was traveling in a southbound lane when a Toyota Camry slammed into its side and broke a tank valve, releasing the acetone, said Sergeant Mike Conroy of the Virginia State Police. Lanes remained closed into the evening as Hazmat teams worked to clean up the spill. Conroy said he did not know how much acetone — a liquid used to make plastic and to dissolve other substances — leaked from the tractor-trailer because it evaporates quickly.
Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/29810.html>
5. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Tanker fire near in New Mexico closes interstate.** The driver of a fuel tanker was killed Wednesday morning, August 17, in a crash that shut down Interstate-25 just south of Santa Fe, NM. The tanker was carrying 7,500 gallons of gas and 1,000 gallons of diesel. State police shut down the interstate in both directions near La Cienega, NM, about 4:30 a.m. Peter Olson, a spokesperson for the state Department of Public Safety, said officers planned to open a southbound lane by mid-morning.
Source: <http://www.thenewmexicochannel.com/news/4861816/detail.html>
6. *August 17, Miami Herald (FL)* — **Diesel fuel spills on Florida interstate ramp.** The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is investigating a traffic crash that caused 25 to 50 gallons of diesel fuel to spill from a jack-knifed tractor-trailer onto an exit ramp at Florida's northbound Interstate-95 and Sheridan Street in Hollywood, FL. Hazmat and clean-up crews were on the scene. The northbound exit ramp to Sheridan Street was blocked, and there were back-ups on I-95 due to onlookers, according to FHP.
Source: http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/breaking_news/1240_5666.htm
7. *August 17, Firehouse.com* — **Collision on Kentucky interstate turns into Level III Hazmat.** Wednesday, August 17, at 1:10 a.m., the Worthington, KY, Fire Department was dispatched to an automobile accident with a rescue on Interstate-71 near Interstate-265. The accident involved a mini van that had crossed the median from the northbound lanes and made contact with a semi in the southbound lanes. The mini van rested upside down in the median and the semi was in the southbound lanes on fire. The crash shut down a stretch of Interstate-71, while firefighters fought the fire for nearly two hours before extinguishing it. The contents of semi were determined to be hazardous by the placard on the trailer. Command declared a Level III Hazmat and the Metro Hazmat Team A responded to the scene.
Source: http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=4407_8§ionId=45
8. *August 17, Market Watch* — **Refinery deaths spur BP safety panel.** Reeling from a recent string of fatal accidents at its North American refinery operations, BP said Wednesday, August 17, that it is appointing an independent panel to review its safety systems. The move comes in

the wake of an urgent recommendation issued Wednesday by the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) following its preliminary review of the huge March 23 explosion at BP's Texas City refinery in Texas, which killed 15 workers and injured another 170. In addition to the Texas City blast, the company had two deadly refinery mishaps last year and what the board called "two additional serious incidents since the fatal March explosion," including a non-injury fire in late July.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?siteid=mktw&dist=mreover&guid=%7b68BF7EEF-0076-4E9B-AD6A-7059F159C479>

9. *August 16, NBC 25 (MD)* — **Gallons of diesel fuel leaked on Maryland interstate causing traffic delays.** The driver of a tractor trailer traveling westbound on Interstate-70 near Frederick, MD, lost control of his vehicle Tuesday afternoon, August 16, and ruptured a diesel tank. The tractor trailer leaked more than 75 gallons of fuel into the median. Pieces of metal rolled off the 18-wheeler, knocking into a white pickup truck headed eastbound. Both drivers were taken to Washington County Hospital in Maryland with only minor injuries. Westbound traffic was backed up for miles Tuesday afternoon. Maryland State Police said all lanes are now open.

Source: <http://www.nbc25.com/main/modules/news/article.php?storyid=394>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *August 17, Washington Post* — **U.S. contractor to acquire British defense contractor.**

Lockheed Martin Corp., the Pentagon's largest contractor, on Tuesday, August 16, captured a bigger share of the British government's defense business with the acquisition of a Britain-based firm that develops weapons systems and military communications gear. The Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed's subsidiary in Britain will buy Insys Ltd., a firm that has done work on a wide range of programs for the British defense ministry, including biological detection, electronic warfare, missile defense and mobile artillery. Lockheed spokesperson Jeff Adams said that Insys complements Lockheed's strengths and that the addition of the firm will give Lockheed a better shot at a larger number of contracts with the British government. There have been a series of transatlantic deals among defense contractors this year, most notably British-based BAE Systems PLC's acquisition of Arlington, VA-based United Defense Industries Inc. Paul Nisbet, aerospace industry analyst for aerospace research firm JSA Research Inc., said the deals reflect the close relations between the British and American governments and their willingness to trust each other's contractors with sensitive national security projects.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/16/AR2005081601699.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

- 11.

August 18, Reuters — **U.S. colleges struggle to combat identity theft.** Universities across the U.S. are finding themselves on the front lines of the battle against identity theft. With their huge databases, universities may rival financial institutions as attractive targets for the crime, estimated to affect over nine million Americans a year at the total cost of more than \$50 billion, experts said. Nearly half of the publicized incidents of data breach since January occurred at universities, according to the San Diego, California–based Identity Theft Resource Center. Universities provide a target–rich environment for identity thieves — an abundance of computer equipment filled with sensitive data and a pool of financially naive students. In addition, diffuse technological systems and independent departments makes the struggle to stifle breaches even more challenging. Anthony Wood, director of academic computing at the University of California–San Diego, said the school has gone beyond hardening its network to educating users on the dangers of keeping unencrypted files containing sensitive data on their computers and the vital need to maintain security patches. The awareness of campus identity theft in California is a result of the 2003 state law requiring notification by state and public entities if a third party acquires encrypted personal data.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2005-08-17T120356Z_01_SCH743415_RTRIDST_0_USREP-ORT-LIFE-PRIVACY-DC.XML

12. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Social Security numbers dropped from Alabama vehicle crash reports.** A new Alabama State law provides that vehicle crash reports no longer require a driver's Social Security number. The new law is designed to prevent identity theft. The Legislature approved the legislation in its recent special session and Alabama Governor Riley signed it into law. State Public Safety Director Mike Coppage said his agency sought the change in the motor vehicle crash reports to make it more difficult to acquire personal information for fraudulent purposes. The new law also deleted the requirement that a Social Security number appear on the face of a commercial driver's license.

Source: <http://www.waff.com/global/story.asp?s=3730187&ClientType=Printable>

13. *August 17, Finextra Research (UK)* — **Indian trade association to probe Australian customer data theft.** The Indian trade body, National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), says it will investigate recent claims that undercover reporters were able to buy confidential customer data from call center workers. Nasscom has asked the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to provide details of a recent sting operation where an undercover reporter working for ABC's Four Corners program was offered confidential customer records by call center workers in India. The case is the third this year involving a breach of customer data by call center workers in the country. In June, an undercover reporter working for a United Kingdom tabloid newspaper was allegedly able to buy the bank account details of 1000 customers from an IT worker in Delhi. While in April three former employees of Indian Bank Payment Order (BPO) firm Mphasis were arrested for allegedly siphoning off \$300,000 from Citibank customers after stealing account details while working at an offshore call center in India. Nasscom says the problem of data theft was not unique to any country but it is implementing measures to increase security, including the formation of a national database of registered BPO staff, and says the industry is determined to raise standards even further.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14119>

14.

August 17, Associated Press — **Arab Bank paying \$24 million civil fine due to lack of controls against money laundering.** Arab Bank PLC is paying a \$24 million civil fine for allegedly inadequate controls against money laundering at its New York branch, U.S. regulators announced Wednesday, August 17. The fine was levied by the Office of the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, both Department of the Treasury agencies. The comptroller's office in February ordered the bank to stop transferring funds or opening new accounts at the New York branch, which was converted into an entity that does not conduct traditional banking activities but continues to engage in corporate and trade financing. Jordan-based Arab Bank, in a statement, said it had cooperated fully with the regulators. The bank said it had been "diligently applying" anti-money-laundering controls to the transactions made by customers of its Manhattan branch, but did not believe the law required those controls to be applied to wire transfers to non-customers for which the branch acted as an intermediary. The bank faces several lawsuits in the U.S. by relatives of terrorism victims in Israel who allege it supported terrorism by funneling donations to Palestinian suicide bombers and their families. The bank agreed to pay the fine without admitting or denying wrongdoing.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Arab-Bank-Fined.html>

15. *August 16, Charlotte Business Journal (NC)* — **Wachovia, Bank of America target online security.** Wachovia Corporation is notifying its online customers that it will communicate account information to them solely through its secure message center. The move, the company says, is part of an effort to protect customers and their personal information against increasing security threats, such as phishing. Wachovia says it will never request or communicate sensitive account information to customers via e-mail. Instead, online customers will receive an e-mail notifying them that a message has arrived in their Wachovia online-services message center inbox. The e-mail, however, will not provide an active link. Once customers log in to their online account, they can communicate with Wachovia by sending and receiving secure messages. Bank of America, meanwhile, subsequently launched a service it says will help protect its 13.2 million online-banking customers from fraud and identity theft. Customers can sign up for the service, called SiteKey, online for free. Customers enrolling in the program pick an image, write a brief phrase and select challenge questions that will later be used to confirm their identity during an online transaction. The service will roll out across the country by the end of the year.

Source: <http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2005/08/15/daily18.html>

16. *August 15, Reuters* — **Japan's biometric security firms see demand booming.** Firms providing the latest in biometric security, using systems that can identify an individual's face, hand or fingerprint, are experiencing a boom in Japan amid an increase in forgery and cybercrime. The technology includes ways to combat credit card fraud and Internet offences such as identity theft by avoiding the need for PIN numbers, as well as doors that dispense with conventional locks and instead rely on face recognition. Some analysts say technology vendors including have great potential in the biometrics security market which, although expected to grow sharply, is still in its infancy. In Japan, demand for the technology has been spurred by the introduction in April of the Personal Information Protection Law, which calls for companies and organizations to establish and manage company-wide information security. Japan's second-biggest bank, Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group, is receiving over 2,000 applications a day for a credit card launched last year that identifies users by the veins in their palm. It has

installed an authentication system in half of its 3,000 ATMs. Japan Post plans to introduce a cash card next year that carries a finger vein authentication system to counter forgery and card skimming.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=technologyNews&storyID=2005-08-16T030215Z_01_HO610890_RTRIDST_0_TECH-BIOMETRICS-JAPAN-DC.XML

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

17. *August 17, GovExec* — **Communications system needed for air marshals.** House lawmakers want to amplify air-to-ground communication for federal air marshals, but they must convince their Senate colleagues not to cut \$10 million from the program. In the fiscal 2006 spending measure for the Department of Homeland Security, the House included \$699 million for the federal air marshal program — \$10,000 more than President Bush requested and \$36 million more than provided last year. The funding proposal includes \$10 million for an air-to-ground communication system. "The committee anticipates that this funding level will maintain, or perhaps increase, mission coverage on both domestic and international flights," read the House Appropriations Committee report on the bill. Congress has funded the initiative over the past few years, and the lawmakers said the department could deploy the communication system next year. House appropriators directed the department to establish a reliable, wireless and secure system that could receive signals while airborne or on the ground, either within the country or abroad. But House lawmakers must negotiate with their Senate colleagues, who voted to cut \$10 million from the request for the air marshal program. The Senate appropriators did not address the communication system in their report.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32012&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32012&dcn=to%20daysnews)

18. *August 17, Arizona Daily Sun (AZ)* — **Arizona lawmaker proposes fence along border.** Arizona state Rep. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, is crafting a measure to ask voters next year to spend the money to erect a climb-proof fence wherever possible from Yuma to east of Douglas. Pearce acknowledged Tuesday, August 16, he doesn't have a price tag. A similar fence erected by federal officials near San Diego cost about \$1.7 million a mile; the Arizona border stretches for 341 miles. But Pearce said he believes stemming the flow of people crossing the border illegally will end up saving Arizonans far more than what the state spends for health care, education and prison costs on illegal entrants. And Pearce said a fence provides a more permanent solution than the \$1.5 million cash infusion to four border counties for law enforcement following Monday's decision by Governor Janet Napolitano to declare a border emergency. Even assuming some landowners would allow a fence to be erected, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manuel Ruiz said all that will do is move illegal crossing to another location. He said that's what happened when fences and increased patrols in California and Texas, as well as along a few spots along the Arizona border, pushed people out into the more dangerous desert.

Source: http://www.azdailysun.com/non_sec/nav_includes/story.cfm?storyID=113823

19. *August 17, Boston Globe (MA)* — **Riders flee bus fire on NYC run.** A Fung Wah bus, part of the low-fare passenger line fleet from Boston to New York, erupted in flames on an interstate

highway in Connecticut on Tuesday, August 16, sending frightened passengers scrambling off the bus just moments before it became a "charred mess," police said. It was the second time in five months that a low-fare Chinatown bus has caught fire. On March 18, flames destroyed a New York-to-Boston bus owned by Travel Pack, a Fung Wah competitor, near the Allston-Brighton tolls on the Massachusetts Turnpike. Although the Boston-based Fung Wah company has a "satisfactory" rating, the highest given, with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the agency cited the company in 2004 for failing to do random drug and alcohol tests of employees, as well as for allowing a driver to work more than 70 hours in eight days. The citations resulted in more than \$17,000 in fines, agency records show.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2005/08/17/riders_flee_bus_fire_on_nyc_run/

20. *August 16, Tahoe Daily Tribune (CA)* — **U.S. Coast Guard establishes its emergency locations at Lake Tahoe.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) wants to make a safe harbor at several spots on Lake Tahoe, CA, requesting jurisdiction over seven marinas in the event of a disaster. The move to secure locations beyond the Tahoe City station is part of a disaster preparedness plan the Department of Homeland Security has sought from agencies dealing with the possibility of mass-casualty victims since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The marinas include: Camp Richardson, Hyatts in Incline Village and Meeks Bay, Zephyr Cove, Tahoe Keys, Sand Harbor, and Ski Run. "If something were to happen on the lake, we would need to know what to do. This would give us a scripted disaster plan," USCG Lieutenant Leanne Bacon said. Bacon said a terrorist attack at Lake Tahoe is unlikely, but the plan aims to tackle other incidents such as major boat fires.

Source: http://www.tahoe-dailytribune.com/article/20050816/NEWS/10816_0012/-1/rss02

21. *August 16, Associated Press* — **Air safety abroad not always to U.S. level.** The two jetliners that crashed this week were both flying for new, low-cost regional carriers, which are springing up around the world as governments follow the U.S. lead and deregulate air travel. A total of 281 people died in the crashes of a West Caribbean Airways MD-82 in Venezuela on Tuesday, August 16, and a Helios Airways Boeing 737-300 in Greece on Sunday. Helios Airways was founded in 1999 as Cyprus' first private airline. West Caribbean Airways, a Colombian airline, began service in 1998. The level of oversight for these carriers is possibly not as high as in the United States, which is experiencing the safest period in aviation history. John Nance, a pilot and aviation analyst, said there are two reasons for the United States' safety record: standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration and the realization by U.S. airlines that they must focus on safety. The story is different in some places outside the United States, where smaller countries are replacing national carriers with American-style deregulation — sometimes with inadequate safety oversight.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-16-plane-safety_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

22. *August 17, USAGNet* — **Drought costs Illinois farmers.** Illinois Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson estimates the 2005 drought has cost Illinois farmers at least two billion dollars. Nelson said U.S. Department of Agriculture numbers imply a \$1.4 billion loss for Illinois corn and a \$690 million loss for beans — at current prices as of August 1.
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=825&yr=2005>
23. *August 17, Agricultural Research Service* — **Scientists identify new moth that attacks invasive fern.** The search for natural enemies of an invasive weed that threatens Florida's wetlands has led scientists to a unique insect: a stem-boring moth caterpillar, dubbed the "Lygodium spider moth," that attacks ferns. The moth, *Siamusotima aranea* Solis & Yen, was found in Thailand in stems of a native fern, *Lygodium flexuosum*, by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and colleagues seeking biological controls of the Old World climbing fern, *Lygodium microphyllum*. While there are many stem-boring moths, *S. aranea* is the first to be identified among fern-feeders in Asia. This discovery expands possibilities for biological control of the Old World climbing fern in the U.S. The plant is not a pest in its native Australia, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa, perhaps because its enemies keep it in check there. Already, entomologist Robert Pemberton of the ARS Invasive Plants Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, FL, is culturing *S. aranea* to test its effectiveness against the Old World climbing fern.
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>
24. *August 17, Ledger (FL)* — **More canker hits Polk County.** About 20 Polk County citrus growers will lose some 260 acres of grove to canker discovered earlier this month near Poinciana — the second outbreak in Polk since May. The first outbreak of the bacterial disease was discovered in May at a citrus nursery and groves owned by Ben Hill Griffin Inc. around Frostproof. The two outbreaks do not appear to be related, said Greg Carlton with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Winter Haven grower Harold McTeer said he discovered the symptomatic canker lesions on 18 earlyseason orange trees in his 20-acre grove off Lake Hatchineha Road on August 6. McTeer reported it to the state-federal Citrus Canker Eradication Program, which confirmed last week the lesions were canker, said Mark Fagan, a program spokesperson. A survey of surrounding groves last week discovered canker on a single Hamlin orange tree in a grove owned by a Dundee-based grower and harvester, Fagan said. So far that was the only other outbreak in the area. State law requires the destruction of exposed citrus trees within that area in an attempt to control canker's spread. The 1,900-foot radius around both outbreaks will take in an area of about 260 acres, Carlton said.
Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050817/NEWS/508170340/1001/BUSINESS>
25. *August 16, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Final rule adopted to add Florida to the list of brucellosis-free states.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adopting as a final rule — without change — an interim rule amending brucellosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of swine by adding Florida to the list of validated brucellosis-free states. The interim rule was based on APHIS' determination that Florida meets the criteria for classification as a validated brucellosis-free state. That action relieved certain restrictions on the interstate movement of breeding swine

from Florida. Brucellosis is a contagious disease caused by bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. The disease mainly affects bison, cattle, and swine. Brucellosis causes the loss of young through spontaneous abortion or birth of weak offspring, reduced milk production, and infertility.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/08/brufrefl_vs.html

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Food Sector

26. *August 17, CNET News* — **Technology to thwart food poisoning, bioterror.** Scientists hope to use a new mathematical technique to detect red tides, or toxic algae in the ocean, before infected shellfish can make people ill. Researchers from Carnegie Mellon University are working with various government offices to develop a "spatiotemporal" data mining system for finding and tracking toxic algae blighting North American waters. The toxins not only kill marine life, but also cause many people to get ill upon eating tainted shellfish. Doing the manual work for researchers, the system can mine through thousands of satellite images from NASA and oceanographic data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to detect where red tide is affecting human and sea life. Spatiotemporal data mining is a fast-growing field that could have implications for numerous areas of research. On a basic level, the system is designed to analyze the location of one object over time to predict the future. This method could also help detect acts of bioterrorism in the nation's waterways. Satellite imagery from NASA can make visible the chlorophyll concentration in bodies of water, and because bioterrorism can affect those levels, an attack would be apparent. The system for red tides looks at NASA images over eight years and historical oceanographic data over 50 years that show the chlorophyll and algae concentration of the sea floor.

Source: http://news.com.com/Technology+to+thwart+food+poisoning.+bio+terrorism/2100-1008_3-5835317.html

27. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Louisiana stops sale of Vietnamese seafood.** Nearly 350 tons of Vietnamese seafood has been taken off the market since Friday, August 12, and must stay in the freezer until it can be checked for a antibiotic not allowed in food, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Odom said Monday, August 15. He said inspectors are checking cold storage facilities, seafood markets, restaurants, grocery stores, and other retail establishments, looking for any seafood from Vietnam. They have found basa catfish, crab meat, and other products, he said. Odom stopped the sale of all seafood from Vietnam, after the Food and Drug Administration found fluoroquinolones in basa catfish imported from that country. Fluoroquinolones are used to treat tuberculosis, pneumonia, and other infections in people and sometimes added to fish food in other countries. They are forbidden in food in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, not because they might directly cause illness but because germs could become resistant to them.

Source: <http://www.deridderdailynews.com/articles/2005/08/17/news/news7.txt>

28. *August 16, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Proposal to amend regulations governing Japanese beef.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Tuesday, August 16, announced that it proposes to amend the regulations for the importation of meat and other edible animal products by allowing, under specified conditions, the importation of whole cuts of boneless beef from Japan. In September

2001, APHIS prohibited the importation of ruminants and most ruminant products from Japan following the confirmation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a native-born cow in that country. Recently, Japan has requested that APHIS consider resuming the importation of beef from Japan to the U.S. The proposed rule would allow the importation of whole cuts of boneless beef that are derived from cattle, born, raised and slaughtered in Japan with certain conditions. The beef is prepared in an establishment that is eligible to have its products imported to the U.S. under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA). The beef is derived from cattle that are not subjected to a pithing process at slaughter. The mitigation measures must be certified on an original certificate issued by an authorized veterinary official of the Government of Japan.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/08/japanbeef_vs.html

29. *August 16, Las Vegas Sun (NV)* — **State aims to protect milk supply.** Increased security and training are in place to protect the milk produced in Nevada from being contaminated by terrorists, Michael Compston, executive director of the state Dairy Commission said Monday, August 15. He made the statement because researchers at Stanford University have released a study that concluded that a third of an ounce of botulism toxin in a milk truck could cause hundreds of thousands of deaths. Compston said a lot of milk industry people were upset at the publication of the study on the Website of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. "The last thing we want to do is put an X on vulnerable places," he said. There are about 40 producers of milk in Nevada that ship the product through pipelines to holding tanks where it is then transported by tanker to the three plants for final processing. At the three plants, access is limited. Employees must have magnetic cards to enter. But Compston concedes it's not a foolproof system. Compston said the tanker trucks have locked tanks. In addition, his inspectors are going to the 40 producers at least once a month to look for ways to improve security.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/lv-other/2005/aug/16/519213647.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

30. *August 17, Reuters* — **Mass bird deaths found in European Russian region.** Russia is investigating mass bird deaths in a region to the west of the Ural mountains in what could become the first case of the deadly bird flu virus spreading to Europe, officials said on Wednesday August 17. But Russia's chief animal health official said a preliminary analysis had shown the deaths in Kalmykia may not have been caused by the dangerous virus. The Russian state health watchdog, in a statement posted on its Website, said the bird deaths occurred on a farm in the Caspian region of Kalmykia — 1,200 miles from the region where Russia's first flu outbreak was reported. "This case is being investigated," the Federal Consumers' Rights and Welfare Watchdog said. Russia has fought to contain a bird flu outbreak since mid-July when the first case of the disease was registered in Siberia and later in neighboring Kazakhstan and

Mongolia. The Agriculture Ministry said in a statement health and emergency officials had culled 113,000 birds in all affected regions — from Novosibirsk to Kurgan — to stop the disease from spreading. Officials fear migrating birds could export the virus to Western Europe, Africa, and the Middle East over coming months. The H5N1 subtype of bird flu, confirmed in Kazakhstan and a number of Siberian regions, has killed more than 50 people in Asia since 2003.

Source: http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-08-17T182714Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-212_930-1.xml

31. *August 17, Voice of America* — **World Health Organization says 2005 polio eradication goal may be missed.** The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledges it might not achieve its goal of eradicating polio around the world by the end of this year. The agency says the Horn of Africa is among its greatest concerns because polio has spread to Eritrea and fears are growing that the disease might re-invade war-torn Somalia. The WHO's global polio eradication campaign is not going as well as it had hoped. Latest WHO figures show that more than 1,000 children have been paralyzed with polio since the beginning of 2005. This is double the number of children who were paralyzed by the disease during the same period last year. WHO's special representative for polio, David Heymann, says there is particular concern about the spread of polio to other countries from the Horn of Africa. The WHO blames its current problems on Nigeria. Two years ago, several Muslim States in Northern Nigeria stopped vaccinating their children claiming the polio vaccine was contaminated. After that, a number of African countries that had been polio-free became re-infected with the virus that traveled from Nigeria. WHO reports polio exists in 24 countries. Eighteen are African countries that had been polio-free. Seventeen got re-infected from Nigeria. The only exception, it says, is Angola that received the virus from India.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-08-17-voa19.cfm>

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Government Sector

32. *August 17, Oakland Press (MI)* — **Jailbreak prompts security review.** A day after four prisoners — one for the second time in three days — broke out of a holding cell in Pontiac, MI, questions are being raised about security in Oakland County's other district courts. Court officials say security is something they don't take lightly and many said procedures were being reviewed in light of the jailbreak at 50th District Court in Pontiac on Monday, August 15. But with no state law governing security at the district court level, court officials say they are always looking for better ways to protect employees, prisoners, and the public. Marcia McBrien, spokesperson for the Michigan Supreme Court, said the State Court Administrative Office publishes guidelines for court security at the district court level, but there are no state laws mandating what measures the courts must take. In light of Monday's escape and other events nationally, other district courts have been taking measures to reduce the possibility of prisoner escapes.

Source: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/stories/081705/loc_2005081700_6.shtml

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *August 16, The Sentinel (PA)* — **Emergency drill to take place in Pennsylvania.** Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle Regional Medical Center and Cumberland County Department of Emergency in Pennsylvania are conducting a joint exercise Thursday, August 18. The exercise will focus on a hostage situation and rescue response as well as mass casualty and decontamination–handling capabilities. The training session will begin about 2 p.m. and end by 10 p.m. at Carlisle Barracks. The purpose is to coordinate both military and civilian law enforcement with hospital, local fire companies and area medical personnel. Participants and observers include Pennsylvania National Guard's 3rd Civil Support Team, Pennsylvania State Police, Carlisle police, North Middleton police, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol, the state Department of Health and Human Services and several local ambulance and fire companies.

Source: http://www.cumberlink.com/articles/2005/08/16/breaking_news/lewis01.txt

34. *August 16, Associated Press* — **British police test e–mail terror alert.** British police said Tuesday, August 16, they were testing a system to send news of terror alerts to commuters by cell phone and e–mail. British Metropolitan Police said Londoners would be able to sign up to receive cell phone text message, e–mail or voice message updates on terror alerts, major incidents or station closures, as well as updates on police investigations into the July 7 and July 21 bomb attacks on London's transit system. "In the aftermath of July 7 and July 21 we have had a look at how we can reassure Londoners," Metropolitan Police commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said. "This service enables us to send information by SMS (text message), voice message or e–mail about this inquiry." Ghaffur said he hoped the public would also use the service, launched on Tuesday, to respond to appeals for information.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2005/08/16/international/i152335D32.DTL>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *August 17, Bloomberg* — **Media outlet computers attacked by worm.** CNN, SBC Communications Inc. and other media outlet computers were shut down on Tuesday, August 16, by a computer worm that targets Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software. The destructive program is a strain of an existing worm known as Zotob affecting computers running the Windows 2000 operating system, said Stephen Toulouse, security program manager at Microsoft. "Our analysis has revealed that the reported worms are different variations of the existing attack called Zotob," Toulouse wrote in an e–mailed statement. Customers who had updated their software or are using other operating system versions such as Windows XP, weren't affected, he said. CNN spokesperson Laurie Goldberg said there were computer failures in Atlanta and New York. ABC Inc. had computers on the U.S. East and West coasts affected, spokesperson Jeff Schneider said. Production of the London–based Financial Times newspaper was disrupted by the infection, said spokesperson Katy Hemmings. Some computers were affected at number two U.S. phone carrier SBC Communications call centers, forcing employees to manually enter orders, said spokesperson Michael Coe. Computers at the New

York Times Co., the third-largest newspaper publisher, were also hit.

Security hole patch: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS05-039.msp>

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aPrKdHO1jQOI&refer=us>

36. August 17, Reuters — Computer worms are attacking each other according to analyst.

Computer worms that have brought down systems around the world in recent days are starting to attack each other, an analyst from Finnish software security firm F-Secure said on Wednesday, August 17. "We seem to have a botwar on our hands," said Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at F-Secure. "There appear to be three different virus-writing gangs turning out new worms at an alarming rate, as if they were competing to build the biggest network of infected machines," said Hypponen. Hypponen said in a statement that varieties of three worms — Zotob, Bozori and IRCbot — were still exploiting a gap in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 2000 operating system on computers that had not had the flaw repaired and were not shielded by firewalls.

Source: <http://tech.nytimes.com/reuters/technology/tech-viruses-fsecure-c.html>

37. August 16, Security Focus — HP Ignite-UX TFTP file upload vulnerability. During installation, Ignite-UX can use a TFTP server for remote access. Under certain circumstances, parts of the server path can be made world writable. This occurs if the add_new_client command is issued. Remote TFTP clients may be able to then write data to parts of the file system anonymously. Users should apply the HP Ignite-UX version C.6.2.241 patches.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14571/references>

38. August 16, SecurityFocus — SafeHTML UTF-7 and CSS comment tag cross site scripting vulnerabilities. SafeHTML is prone to cross-site scripting vulnerabilities, specifically in dealing with UTF-7 encoding of characters and with CSS comment tags. Failure to filter HTML content can result in the exploitation of various latent vulnerabilities in Web based applications. A successful attack may facilitate HTML injection or cross-site scripting type issues. The vendor has released version 1.3.5 to resolve this issue.

SafeHTML SafeHTML 1.3.2: <http://pixel-apes.com/download/safehtml-1.3.5.zip>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14574/info>

39. August 16, FrSIRT — BlueZ "security.c" arbitrary command execution vulnerability. A vulnerability was identified in BlueZ, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to an input validation error in "hcid/security.c" when processing and executing specially crafted bluetooth device names as command line arguments, which could be exploited by attackers to execute arbitrary commands or create pairings without the user's approval. Products affected are bluez-libs versions prior to 2.19 and bluez-utils versions prior to 2.19

Users should upgrade to bluez-libs-2.19 and bluez-utils-2.19:

<http://www.bluez.org/download.html>

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1431>

40. August 16, FrSIRT — Kismet multiple integer underflow and unspecified vulnerabilities.

Multiple vulnerabilities were identified in Kismet, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands or cause a denial of service. The first flaw is due to an error in

the handling of unprintable characters in the SSID (the impact of this issue is currently unknown). The second issue is due to integer underflow errors in the pcap handling, which could be exploited to cause heap corruption. The third vulnerability is due to an integer underflow in CDP protocol dissector, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands. Products affected are Kismet versions prior to 2005-08-R1.

Upgrade to Kismet version 2005-08-R1: <http://www.kismetwireless.net/download.shtml>

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1422>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has seen reports of multiple families of malicious code that take advantage of the vulnerability described in VU#998653 (MS05-039). This includes, but is not limited to, several variants of the Zotob worm and other malware including the W32/Rbot and W32/SDBot families of malicious code.

The malware scans for vulnerable systems on port 445/tcp. Upon infection a compromised host will attempt to scan and exploit other systems at randomly generated IP addresses. The functionality has evolved within the Zotob family and with the addition of other malware families; the scope of attack may expand to include:

- * Spyware functionality (key logging, video, audio screen captures)
- * Data theft (authentication credentials, CD Keys to popular applications)
- * Mass mailing

While the primary attack target is the Plug and Play vulnerability on Windows 2000 systems, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 are also exposed to the Plug and Play vulnerability under more limited circumstances. For information on these circumstances, please refer to the "Mitigating Factors" section of the Microsoft Security Advisory.

Once a system is compromised with any of the above listed malicious code, additional vulnerabilities may be exploited across multiple operating systems (including Windows XP and Server 2003) to get malicious code installed on a system.

More information on the vulnerability is available in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#998653 – Microsoft Plug and Play contains a buffer overflow vulnerability:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/998653>

Microsoft has published a Security Advisory that provides guidance on Zotob and its variants. For more information, please see URL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/899588.mspx>

Microsoft has also published some additional information concerning Zotob and what actions users can take now. For more information, please review URL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/incident/zotob.mspx>

US-CERT urges users to apply the update described in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS05-039. If users are unable to apply the update, Microsoft provides several workarounds that may help to protect against known attacks on this vulnerability.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 1026 (----), 6881 (bittorrent), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1234 (hotline), 53 (domain), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 32772 (sometimes-rpc7) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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